



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 15, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Acting Associate Director of Mining *ggl*
Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*
Susan White, Acting Permit Supervisor *SW*

FROM: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PH*

RE: REI Compressor Site/Access Road Stream Crossing, Canyon Fuel Company(CFC), Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Carbon County, Utah

On August 15, 2000, a meeting was held at the Resource Enterprises, Incorporated (REI) site adjacent to the Soldier Canyon Mine #2 Fan area ASCA to discuss procedures and requirements to reclaim each. The following were in attendance:

- 1) Mark Mackiewicz, USDOJ, BLM, Price Field Office
- 2) Don Stevens, USDOJ, BLM, Price Field Office
- 3) Jeff Smith, Questar Pipeline Company
- 4) Reese Platzer, Questar Pipeline Company
- 5) Dave Spillman, Canyon Fuel Company
- 6) Dale Evans, Project Manager, REI
- 7) Mark Page, UDNR/Division of Water Rights
- 8) Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III, UDNR/OGM/PFO.

As noted in several previous inspection reports for the Soldier Canyon site, there have been several embankment slumps into the Soldier Creek channel from the area immediately SW of and adjacent to the REI 96" diameter culvert. In discussing it with CFC, it was determined that the maintenance of the culvert and the overlying access road was the responsibility of REI, who has not used the facilities within the compressor station for several years. REI had used the storage area immediately down-canyon of the mine site sediment pond for storage for several years, but has since removed their equipment. According to Mr. Spillman, there is no future use intended for the gas accumulating apparatus at the Soldier Canyon Mine. Based on this, and the erosion problems associated with the culvert crossing, this individual requested that the permittee (CFC) work with REI to pursue the reclamation of the area.

Correspondence between REI and this individual occurred in January of 2000. At that time, Mr. Dan Bruner, President of REI committed to actively pursue the reclamation of the compressor site and the channel crossing later on in 2000. Plateau Mining Corporation was utilizing the resources and experience of REI for horizontal coal bed degasification at the Willow Creek Mine when a fire occurred on July 31, 2000, temporarily closing that mining operation. With that, REI is now pursuing the reclamation of the facility in Soldier Creek Canyon.

During today's meeting, the following was determined:

- 1) Questar does not have a need to retain the access across the channel at the REI site, although their gas line corridor lies on the east side of the compressor station access. Hence, removal of the culvert will not create a problem.
- 2) Mr. Evans and Mr. Page extensively discussed the stream alteration permit application which must show the methods to be used to ensure as stable a design as possible for the channel reconstruction. The nearly vertical bank adjacent to the discharge end of the REI culvert presents the greatest challenge, as if same does not receive adequate erosion protection, undercutting of the Questar pipeline could occur. The Soldier Creek channel is known to receive huge volumes of water, as precipitation events in the up-canyon watershed have over topped the eight foot diameter culvert on several occasions.

The current plan is to narrow the channel on the #2 Fan ASCA side to force the flow path to meander to the east side of the present culvert location. This should give the flow path a less severe angle to make its way farther down-canyon and miss the near vertical bank mentioned above. The keying in of large diameter rip-rap to the channel bottom was extensively discussed. Mr. Page indicated that the grouting of rip rap in potentially high erosive areas had been done, in conjunction with effective tying in of rock within the channel. The use of filter fabric was also discussed, as well as grade protection up-channel. This inspector's main concern relative to the reclamation of this area is the stability of the fringe area of ASCA #3, which is the #2 fan area.

- 3) Mr. Mackiewicz, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Evans discussed the reclamation of the compressor site area, with its various connections into the mine's workings. Permanent plugs which will be well below the surface will be made such that it will be virtually impossible for future excavation work to intercept the connection pipes and shear them off. The road will be reclaimed by contouring the up-slope bank to a contour which is aesthetically pleasing. Seed mixes will be those which are approved in the Soldier Canyon MRP, with consent from the BLM.

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REI must prepare and submit a stream alteration plan to UDNR/Water Resources as well as a written reclamation plan to the BLM for the compressor site. Water Resource approval of the stream alteration application will probably be adequate to meet the BLM's concerns relative to the channel crossing area.

Questar must perform some environmental work in-house to recover their apparatus from the site. According to Mr. Platzer, this should take about two weeks to get the necessary work order approved.

In conclusion, REI is making progress; this individual will follow up as necessary.

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